

31. An *in vitro* assay for the detection of v-IL-6, comprising contacting a sample suspected of containing v-IL-6 with an antibody that binds v-IL-6 and detecting said antibodies that bind said v-IL-6 in said sample.

32. The assay of claim 31, wherein said detecting of antibodies that bind said v-IL-6 indicates the presence of an HHV-8 in said sample.

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34. A method of culturing cells, comprising adding to a cell culture comprising said cells a cell growth stimulating amount of v-IL-6.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein said cells are selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$ -lymphocytes, hybridomas, hemopoietic and endothelial cells.--

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments eliminate multiple dependency and otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter is added.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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